

“Mystic Clay Pad”

DISH GALLERY + STUDIO EXHIBITION FOR SCOTIABANK NUIT BLANCHE

Biographies of Participating Artists

BARBARA BANFIELD

Barbara Banfield's talent lies in business and design, regardless of the media. Having owned and operated her own garment manufacturing business, Barbara has turned her creative explorations to clay. She developed skills as potter through courses offered by the City of Toronto at Cedar Ridge Creative Centre before setting up her own studio in the Beach. She graduated from the ceramics programme at Sheridan College in 2009, has exhibited her work through Toronto Potters exhibitions, at the Gardiner Museum Shop, the Lennox Gallery and at the Sheridan College graduate Show.

EDEN BENDER

At a young age Eden developed various arts programs for children and taught both after school and summer programs. In 1990, Eden received a BFA from York University majoring in sculpture, painting and drawing. Eden relocated to downtown Toronto in 1991 and focused on sculptural works while continuously investigated new materials through specialized courses. Eden's involvement in her community has always been a great source of inspiration and education. Through her volunteer commitments with various non-profit organizations, Eden's work has been influenced by the adversity of the human condition. Recently, her work explores human relationships, compassion and the inner spirit through figurative pieces. Her sculptures often utilize a minimalist colour palette amplifying textured surfaces.

CELIA ZVEIBIL BRANDAO

Celia is a native of Sao Paulo, Brazil currently living in Toronto. She earned a BA in Graphic Design in 1976 and her passion for the art and craft of ceramics was ignited when she travelled through the Brazilian countryside in the late '70s. Since then, Celia has embarked on a journey of learning, discovery and creation. Captivated by the possibilities of the clay, Celia has developed a body of work centered in the exploration of form and decoration as applied to functional ware. For the past 15 years living in Canada, she has worked as a studio potter, taught ceramics and volunteered with FUSION. Celia has participated in many juried exhibitions in Ontario and also has exhibited in the US. www.celiaceramics.com

ARTIST'S STATEMENT:

I am an artist dedicated to the creation of functional pottery. I love to design and explore new possibilities for everyday objects. I'm fascinated by shapes and forms and I like to play with textures and surfaces. I'm passionate about what I do.”

SUSAN CARD

SUSAN CARD (B.H.Ec. B.F.A) has exhibited her work and published articles in ceramics journals since 1989. Her colourful porcelain and sculptural smoke-fired work is commissioned by private and corporate clients and is represented in galleries in Toronto, London, Waterloo, Montreal, and Winnipeg. Her work was featured in the movie "The End of Summer" (MEC Summer Productions

Ltd. Partnership, 1995). She produces adaptations of Edo period Japanese tea bowls as an on-going commission for the Royal Ontario Museum Reproductions Shop.

Susan taught Professional Practise to Crafts and Design students at Sheridan College in Oakville for several years and taught pottery for the City of Toronto at Cedar Ridge Creative Centre. Presently an enthusiastic volunteer Board member for the Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition and the Collections Committee of Burlington Art Centre, Susan is also a past President of Toronto Potters and former Board Chair of FUSION: The Ontario Clay & Glass Association. In 2006 Susan relocated her studio to the Casegoods Warehouse in the Toronto Distillery District. Her studio, **DISH GALLERY + STUDIO** offers a retail shop, exhibitions, and pottery classes. www.dishgalleryandstudio.clayandglass.on.ca

ARTIST'S STATEMENT (Susan Card)

"I enjoy ceramics as a vehicle for timeless communication between people and cultures. It provides a context for reflecting on human activity. The forms I produce are intimate domestic objects, designed as small decorative sculptures to be used as tableware for special occasions. Ceramics express the values of the society that creates them. My pottery reflects the function of hand-crafted objects in our lives and becomes a canvass to explore my artistic concerns of colour, visual space, illusion and perception. Surfaces created celebrate the natural environment through abstract floral decoration and texture."

DALLAS CARD

Dallas Card (M.A., B.A.Sc.), invited guest curator, will contribute technical expertise to the production of "MYSTIC CLAY PAD". Dallas is currently working in neuroimaging research, but has previously been involved in a variety of collaborative artistic projects, including acting and directing in community theatre, writing and directing a short film ("Coffee Drinkers Make Better Lovers", 2006), and creating an interactive sculptural work for "T'art", the 2004 Technology Art Exhibition at the University of Waterloo.

SHU-CHEN CHENG

Shu-Chen Cheng is a self-taught ceramic artist who lives in Hamilton. Continuing Education courses at Mohawk College sparked her interest in the raku process. She has exhibited her work at venues in the Toronto and Hamilton area since 2000, including Designer Crafts, the Carnegie Gallery Juried Exhibition, potters' guilds of Burlington, Hamilton and Toronto Biennial Exhibitions, the Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition and Muskoka Moose Show. Her award winning raku is wheel thrown and altered or slab built and is sold through the Guildshop and Gardiner Museum in Toronto.

DEREK CHUNG

DEREK CHUNG has managed his own graphic design studio since graduation from Sheridan College's Graphic Design program in 1981. In the clay community, he has volunteered as President of Durham Potters' Guild since 1995, and served on the FUSION Board in a variety of positions including Director at Large, Board Chair from 2002-2004, President from 2004-2006, and currently is Past President in charge of nominations. He has also taught at Durham College School of Design and Communication Arts and also serves on an Advisory Board for Durham College. Derek Chung provides volunteer graphic design services to FUSION for the website www.clayandglass.on.ca and all e-communications, as well as the design of promotional print materials. As President of Durham Potters, Derek was responsible for organizing the 2007 exhibition of work of the Durham Potters Guild at the Station Gallery in Whitby.

IAN CHUNG

Initially educated in Commercial Design in Hong Kong, Ian Chung emigrated to Canada and attended the Ontario College of Art in 1989. After graduation he spent a year honing his skills in a Woodbridge, ON. dinnerware factory. Throughout the early 90's Ian worked as a technician and ceramic instructor in a multitude of community ceramic environments from Toronto to Oakville. Since 1996 he has become a recognized member of the ceramics community working for Tucker's Pottery Supplies Inc. After re-locating to Markham in 2000, he became actively involved in that community at Kaolin Pottery Studio and the Village Potter's Studio, as a Board member of FUSION: The Ontario Clay and Glass Association, as Vice President of the Durham Potters' Guild, and through the Markham Guild of Village Crafts. He is a founding member of Markham 48 Studio Tour.

Chung has participated in many shows including FUSION'S Pottery and Glass Show, Guelph's Potters' Market and the Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition. His ceramic work is found in the collections of Herbert O. Bunt and The Burlington Art Centre.

ANEELA DIAS D'SOUSA

Aneela Dias D'Sousa is a native of Mumbai, India, where she became established as a ceramic artist after graduating from the School of Art at the University of Mumbai (B.F.A.2002). After immigrating to Canada in 2006, Aneela continued her ceramic education at Sheridan College, Oakville and currently is an Artist-in-Residence at Harbourfront Centre in Toronto. Through a steady exhibition schedule since graduation in both Canada and India, including her first appearance at the 2009 spring One Of A Kind Show in Toronto, Aneela has sought to integrate the aesthetics of two cultures in a personal statement of change and growth. Having participated in exhibitions at Cedar Ridge Studio Gallery, Ontario Crafts Council Gallery, Lennox Contemporary Gallery, Gardiner Museum Shop, and Harbourfront Centre, Aneela has taken on the coordination of the upcoming Toronto Potters Exhibition opening in 2010.

ARTIST'S STATEMENT *Aneela Dias D'Sousa*

"I lived most of my life in Mumbai, India where bovine creatures are a large part of the culture. Their existence against the backdrop of a metropolitan city is ironic and amusing and I chose to sculpturally explore these animal forms within the Indian context.

My move to Toronto and the change in culture has led to a new aesthetic. Surface decoration is now eliminated, leading to an exploration of space, form and line. Throwing and altering, hand building and slabs are some of the techniques I use to create my sculptures. The process used depends on what will yield the best result and changes with each sculpture making it challenging and exciting. I fire to a variety of temperatures ranging from Cone 04 to Cone 10, depending on the desired surface. I obtain matt surfaces which I prefer through the use of matt glazes, slips, lower than maturity temperatures or sand blasting. Bovine forms make appearances in my work but my current observations are more innate. My present concepts are based on personal experience. They describe passing thoughts, transient phases and fleeting emotions in a minimalist style. They are a visual statement about change, growth and a personal story."
www.aneeladiasdsousa.com

JUDY DONALDSON

JUDY DONALDSON is a Toronto native and a graduate of Georgian College in Ceramics and Glass. Since returning to Waterloo in 1989 after five years in Calgary she has been actively involved with several Ontario arts organizations. Volunteer activities includes Board Chair of FUSION: The Ontario Clay and Glass Association, the FUSION Pottery and Glass Sale committee, nine years with the Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery, five years on the Waterloo Potters' Workshop (WPW) executive including Past President, WPW Board of Directors. She has been on the organizing committees for several clay conferences, has written workshop and exhibition reviews and technical articles for the Ontario Crafts Council and FUSION Magazine, a feature article for Ceramics Monthly, exhibited in the Waterloo Potters Workshop's annual juried show and several invitational exhibitions and received various awards and scholarships. Her recent award winning work is travelling throughout Ontario as part of FUSION: The Ontario Clay and Glass Association's travelling exhibition Fireworks.

JUDITH GRAHAM

Judith graduated from the University of Toronto with a Bachelor of Arts in Slavic Languages and Literature, and also holds a diploma in teaching Japanese Calligraphy. She is a self-taught potter and has participated in many international juried exhibitions. She was actively involved with Toronto Potters as Treasurer for many years and with the Burlington Potters' Guild as exhibitions co-ordinator, volunteered with the Ontario Crafts Council as Chair of the Resource Centre, and has served FUSION as a member of the Exhibition and Silent Auction Committee. She currently volunteers on the Collections Committee of Burlington Art Centre. Her recent work can be seen at Jonathan Bancroft-Snell Gallery in London, ON and David Kaye Gallery in Toronto.

Graham describes her work as "deconstructionist pieces, where the conventional form is taken to a different level as regards function. Matt surfaces further emphasize non-function; thus, in addition, creating a composition of forms. Adding found metal objects, such as nails or rusted iron addresses the relationship and compliment that exists between the compositional elements of iron, clay and glaze."

GABRIELLE KAUFFMAN

Inspired by her wooded surroundings, Gabrielle Kauffman's pottery exhibits textures, colours and patterns based on natural forms and lines. Her studio overlooks a forested ravine on the banks of the Humber River in Etobicoke, where she creates functional pottery based on that of historical Dutch works. Beautiful in it's simplicity of form and decoration, all of Gabrielle's work is microwave and dishwasher safe. Gabrielle was trained at Central Technical School, George Brown College and the Ontario College of Art and Design. Gabrielle donates 50% of all her pottery proceeds to the Canadian Food for Children charity. www.gkstoneware.com

MARGIE KELK

Known in the arts community as a prolific dynamo of artistic works that span a multitude of media, Margie Kelk will participate in Scotiabank Nuit Blanche with a foray into ceramics, exhibiting her latest experiment in tackling unfamiliar media. Building on her collaged pieces depicting Argentinean graffiti characters carrying the image of an unknown Pre- Columbian god for her exhibition at Propeller gallery during Contact 2009, she will participate with DISH GALLERY + STUDIO artists and visitors to create a wall of ceramic graffiti.

Margie studied at Wellesley College, Massachusetts (Honours B.A.), Ecole des Hautes Etudes, Paris and John Hopkins University (Ph.D. in Romance Languages). She also holds a Graduate Diploma from the Toronto School of Art. Currently President of Propeller Centre for the Visual Arts in Toronto, Margie has taught Italian and French Literature at Tufts University in Boston and art classes to both children and adults at North York YMCA in Ontario and at Owen School. She has also served as Director of the Print and Drawing Council of Canada. A recipient of OAC Exhibition Assistance Grants in 2007, 2008, Margie has exhibited her work in over 25 solo exhibitions since 1984 and numerous group shows, most recently (2009) in "A Postcard is worth 1,000 words" exhibition, APW Gallery, N.Y. City, N.Y. U.S.A. and "im/AGE" at Propeller Gallery, curated by Moses Znaimer. Recent reviews and images of her work can be found in 2009-2010 edition of *New Art International*, Book Art Press Ltd., Woodstock, N.Y., U.S.A., **Newsday**, Friday Feb. 27, 2009 "*Expo 28: The jury is in at b.j. spoke gallery*", Huntington, New York U.S.A., "*Exhibit examines Chinese reality and traditions*" "Port Perry Star, Friday, July 4, 2008, "*Art with an Edge*" the Brantford Expositor, March 29, 2008, inclusion in catalogue: World Washi Summit 2008, Toronto, and her "Enigma of China" show was discussed In L'EXPRESS (L'Hebdo des Francophones du Grand Toronto), Semaine du 29 avril au 5 mai 2008.

ARTIST'S STATEMENT

Margie Kelk's relief constructions completed shortly after graduation from the Toronto School of Art in the early 1990's were "a first foray into abstraction and an affirmation that ideas could find expression in the juxtaposition of symbols within shifting spaces in an individual work. These concepts form the basis of my paintings, prints and drawings today. I envisioned them as constructed objects whose import transcends any physical boundaries that set frames might present. Their impact lies in a universe of modern-day concerns: a loss of our natural environment."

Her most recent series (2009) "Argentinian" is a series of collaged photographs. She laments: "Like many, I have found the ridiculous expenditures of money and the unending hype connected with the American election most disturbing. Putting the actual candidates aside, the events leading up to November 4 resemble a circus, with a parade of actors, and a master of ceremonies (campaign organizers and promoters) who oversees the show. I have created eight collaged photographic pieces whose main characters appeared as graffiti on walls, or spectators on Buenos Aires streets when I was in Argentina last May. The graffiti characters stand out like humorous caricatures. In my work, the graffiti characters are either carrying or venerating a Pre-Colombian god about whom nothing is known, other than the fact that he was drawn over six hundred years ago. His image hangs like an icon on building walls. Spectators gather round to watch the strange parade of comics. There is a carnival atmosphere here as the advancing actors entertain the crowds." www.margiekelk.com

IRIT LEPKIN

Israeli-born Canadian, ceramicist Irit Lepkin, holds a B.A. in Art from Haifa University in Israel and is a graduate of the Ontario College of Art and Design in Toronto. Lepkin engages in an artistic duet with earthenware clay. The soft directness and immediacy of clay lead her to choose this medium as her primary tool of expression. Pieces are hand-built from red or white earthenware and decorated with under-glazes and oxides enhanced by textured glaze. At once personal, psychological and universal, the work unlocks meanings beyond itself and ourselves. Her works are never to be read literally. Inevitably, what one sees initially takes on a whole new meaning as one moves beyond the patina and realizes the inescapable psychological condition of the modern world underscored by her imaginative manipulation of the medium. She uses rusted barbed wire to accentuate mixed messages, and juxtaposes the softness of the clay to the harshness of reality. Although some of the sculptures are small in scale, they are powerful in emotional evocation. In her work, Lepkin attempts to mirror the human predicament.

LESLEY MCINALLY

Graduating in 1994, Lesley gained her honours degree in ceramic design from Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art, Dundee, Scotland. Following a brief period managing Pitlochry Pottery she set up her own studio in Glasgow and developed a successful career as a full time ceramic artist producing both functional and sculptural work exhibiting and selling through galleries and gift shops throughout the UK. In search of adventure, new experiences and better weather, Lesley closed her studio, sold up and immigrated with her partner to Canada in 2004. Having taken a step away from the studio and relocating to Canada, Lesley was able to re-evaluate her approach to clay and the direction she wanted to take it. "Landscape, seascape, weather and it's effects have always had an enormous influence on my work and moving to another country with such a different climate and wonderfully dramatic seasons has played an enormous role on my current body of ceramics". Lesley's work can be found in several Toronto galleries, including DISH GALLERY + Studio.

BARBARA ROSE

Barbara Rose, a retired teacher, graduated from the ceramics programme of Sheridan College (2008). Since 2004 Barbara has exhibited her award winning work in the Hamilton area at the Carnegie Gallery and in Toronto at the Gardiner Museum and in the Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition. Her recent work garnered two awards in "Fireworks", the Biennial Travelling Exhibition of FUSION members' work. Barbara currently teaches pottery classes at the Burlington Art Centre.

ABBEY SMITH

Abbey Smith is a ceramic artist practicing in Toronto. Born and raised in Philadelphia, she has travelled widely to find inspiration and a connection to ceramic tradition in Japan, Central America, Southwest US, England, Italy and France.

Her love of clay as an expressive medium and her fascination with its history began in undergraduate studies at Bennington College, in Vermont. After graduation she taught art in the New York City public school system and received a degree in Art Education from Pratt Institute in Brooklyn New York, where she continued to study ceramics, sculpture, and printmaking. Courses at the Brooklyn Museum School and Greenwich House Pottery provided further training.

Smith settled in Canada in Southern Ontario in 1967 and continued to develop ceramic techniques in her studio, raised two children, and pursued ceramic studies at Georgian and George Brown Colleges. During that time she continued to teach in her own studio, in Toronto public schools, at the Royal Ontario Museum, Seneca College, and also provided consultation on curriculum development.

Her recent work consists of mid-range stoneware and earthenware wall pieces and murals, available for commissions for public and residential spaces, as well as freestanding sculpture and functional pottery.

BRENDA SULLIVAN

Brenda Sullivan has owned and operated a ceramic studio for 36 years. Her current studio, Dragon Clay Productions, is located in Port Hope, ON. Educated in ceramics programmes in Quebec (John Abbott College and Mac Donald College), Brenda also studied mould-making at the OCAD. She has taught both teens and adults and has exhibited her work since 1988,

garnering several awards. She has retailed her work through many juried shows since 1978 and through galleries such as the Gardiner Museum and Distill Gallery, Toronto and in Port Hope. www.dragonclayproductions.com

ROBERT TÊTU

Têtu has been a professional ceramist for 35 years, winning many awards and showing his work in dozens of solo and group exhibitions during that time. In 1975, he established Beechwood Pottery in an historic general store near Seaforth, Ontario, after attending courses at the Ontario College of Art. He produces lines of stoneware and porcelain pottery, specializing in custom dinner services and liturgical pieces. His porcelain work, inspired by the forms of Oriental ceramics (Yuan, Sung and Ming Dynasties, and Korean folk pottery), is wheel-thrown with extremely thin walls. When fired to high temperature (2400 degrees F) in the potter's 40 cubic foot gas kiln, the finished work is translucent, light in colour and weight, yet strong. In 1996, Têtu spent 5 weeks at the Banff Centre for the Arts in Alberta, Canada, experimenting with porcelain pottery high-fired in a wood-burning kiln. Current works resulting from these experiments utilize traditional "Shino" glazes.

Têtu has presented workshops in ceramics to Ontario and Quebec potters' groups and for FUSION: the Ontario Clay and Glass Association. He has been an instructor at Canadore College Summer School of the Arts in North Bay, Ontario, teaches summer workshops in his own studio, and is also known for his illustrated talks about his international travels. Têtu's porcelain is included in private and public art collections, notably, the Governments of Ontario and Brazil, and the permanent collections of the Potters' Guild of Hamilton and Region, the Waterloo Potters' Workshop, and The Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery in Waterloo, Canada. Têtu has served on the Board of Directors of the Ontario Crafts Council, as President of FUSION: The Ontario Clay and Glass Association, as a juror for the Ontario Arts Council, is past Chairman of the international Studio Potter Network, and continues to work as an advisor to Potters for Peace, an organization devoted to nurturing the potter's trade in such countries as Nicaragua, Haiti, Cuba, Ghana and Mexico.

CHIHO TOKITA

Chiho Tokita is an award winning studio potter in Toronto, whose fascination with form fuels her exploration of the vessel shape. The works are minimally glazed to highlight the form and the marks of the process. Her love of utilitarian objects informs her choice to work within the tradition of functional ceramics.

Born in Tokyo and raised in New York City, she now lives in Toronto with her husband and daughter. Coming to ceramics through an educational background in religion and psychotherapy, she is attracted to the *wabi-sabi* aesthetic in Zen Buddhism, most specifically it's understated elegance and simplicity. It is a minimalist aesthetic but one that celebrates the warmth of the natural imperfections of objects made by hand. However she says she may one day make something really over the top.

